

Lessons Learned on Effective Community Partnerships through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

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Background

- Unity Clinic is a student-led, faculty-supervised IPE experience at OUHSC that promotes clinical interprofessional collaboration among healthcare providers.
- Mission: To deliver patient-centered, high-quality health care to underserved populations in Oklahoma.
- In 2021, OUHSC was identified as a key institution to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to the Oklahoma City area, and Unity Clinic mobilized students from different areas of the campus to meet the challenge.

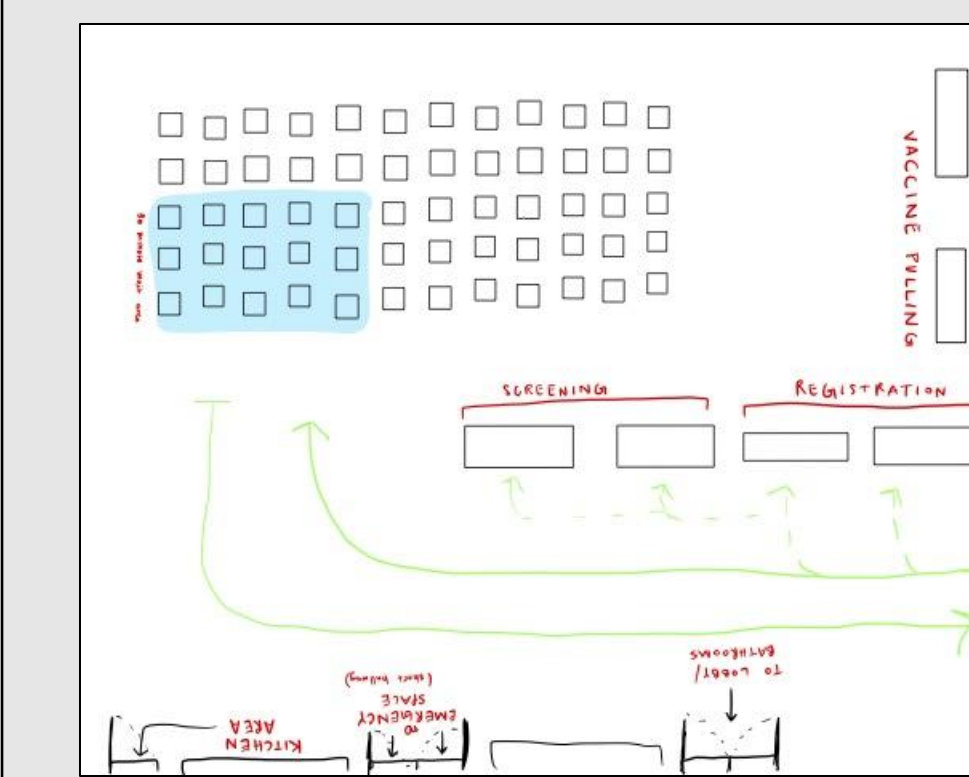


Methodology

- Identify audience as medically under-resourced populations with low vaccine uptake
- Direct outreach efforts directed towards lowest vaccine uptake areas identified by zip-code and medically under-resourced populations
- Partner with local organizations serving marginalized communities
- Create online interest form developed for organization leaders interested in hosting outreach events
- Conduct site visits to confirm feasibility and coordinate clinic workflows
- Design flexible and adaptable workflows to conform to different physical spaces and logistical challenges in community settings

Results

- **25** vaccine clinics
- **16** unique community partnerships
- **298 volunteers** consisting of trainees from numerous health professional programs
- **940 vaccine doses** administered
- Continued health outreach at local community sites



Example of an event workflow created during a site visit.

Discussion

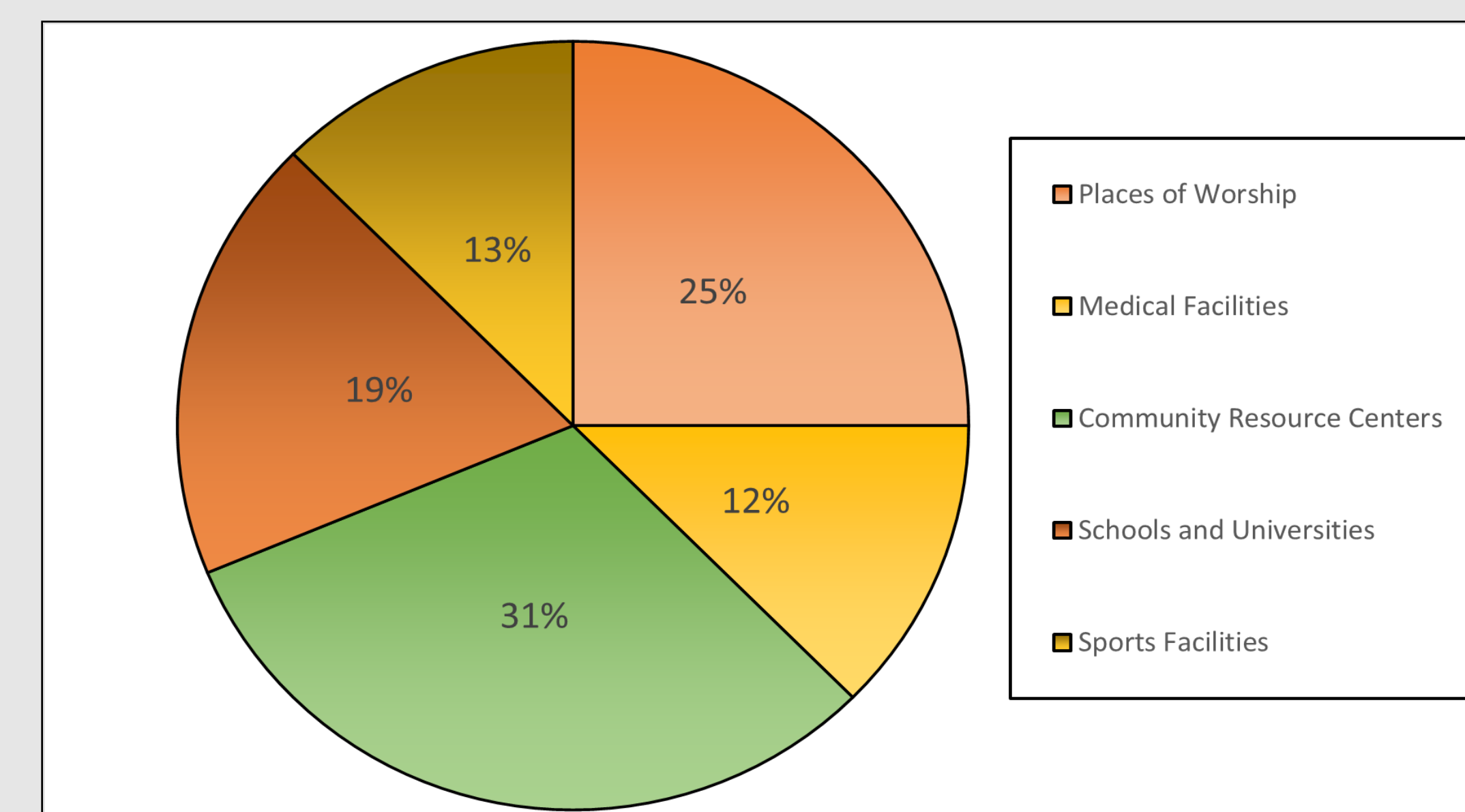
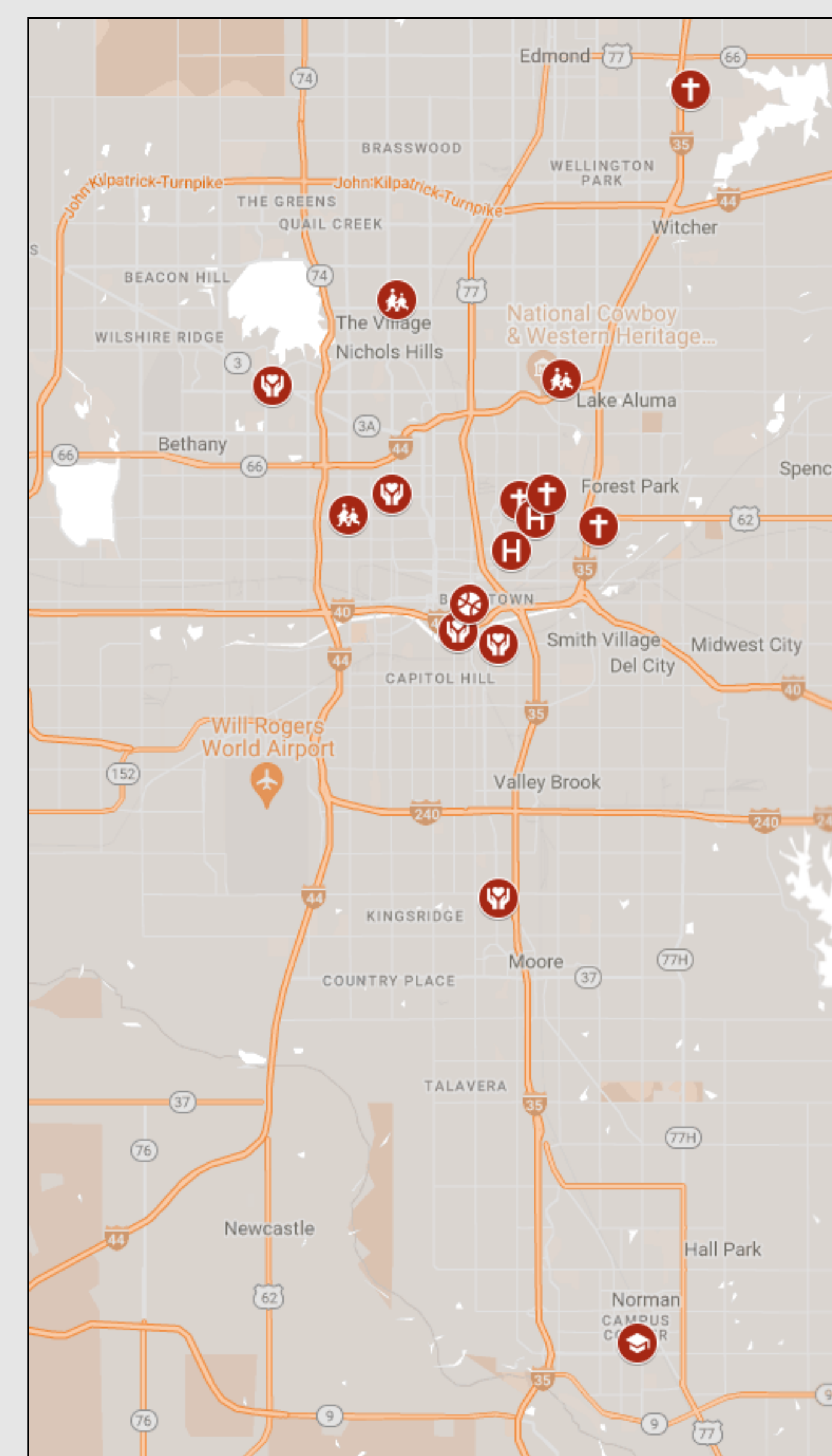
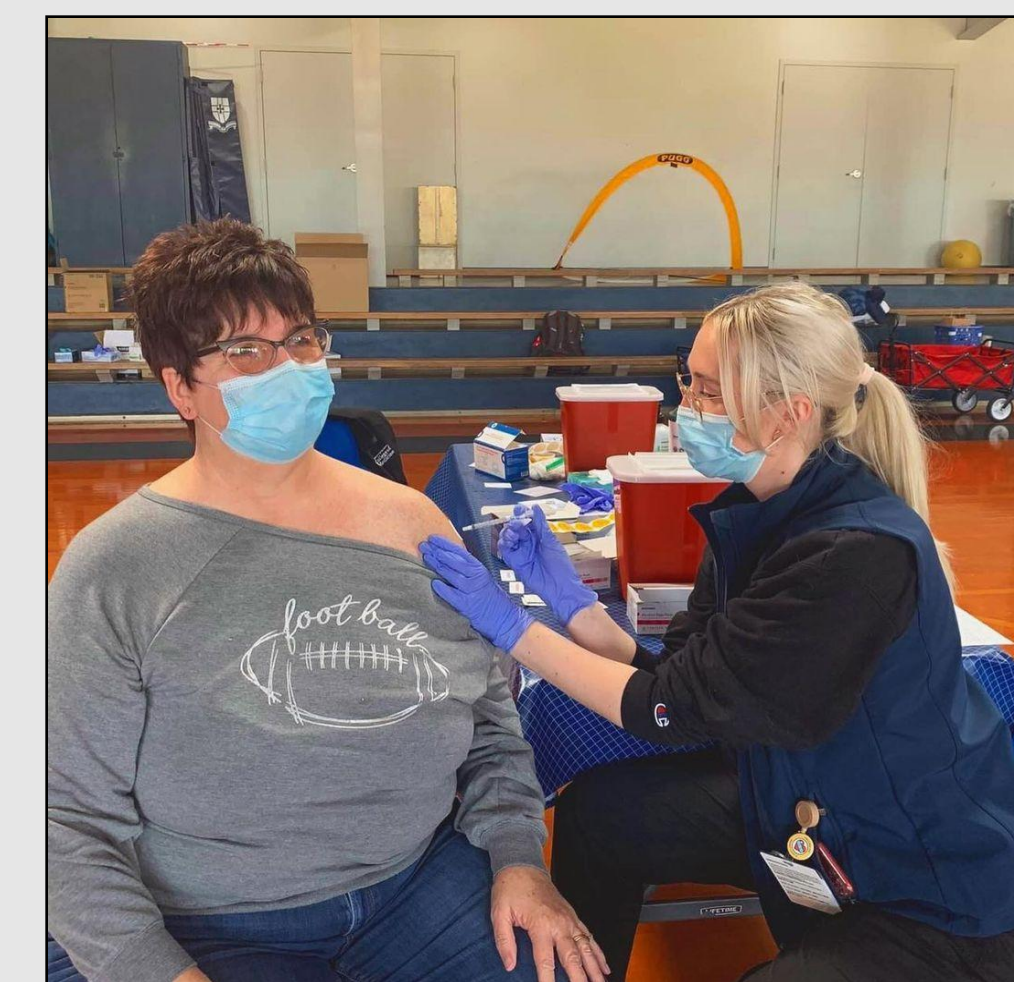
- Factors contributing to successful partnerships:**
- Reputability of community organization
 - Co-existing health outreach with existing community events providing various resources
 - Facilitating trust through communication with known community leaders
 - Mitigating potential barriers to care when designing health events

Challenges:

- Attendance at events and effective avenues for advertisement
- Providing sufficient training to student volunteers when working with special populations, such as children, people experiencing homelessness, or people with disabilities.

Project Description

- A vaccine 'Strike Team' was assembled
- 7 Unity Clinic student leaders, medical and pharmacy faculty, and staff members from multiple departments to distribute vaccines in the community.
- 13 local organizations, including religious organizations, food banks, public schools, and non-profit organizations, were partnered with to host multiple vaccine clinics.



Current and Future Work

Current Projects

- 2-3 health outreach events per month at public schools, non-profit organizations, religious organizations

Current Services

- OUHSC Mobile Outreach Vehicle
- Biometrics (BMI, blood pressure, finger stick blood glucose)
- Handwriting screenings (4-10 yrs age)
- Balance and sensorium screenings
- Cavity and oral hygiene screenings
- Comprehensive Medication Review
- Vision Screenings
- Hearing screenings

Future Work

- Partnership with OKC Homeless Alliance and Sisu Youth Services



Objectives

- Develop partnerships with trusted organizations within communities with low COVID-19 vaccine uptake
- Create internal processes to enhance student-led health outreach initiatives with community partners
- Demonstrate experience in creating interprofessional, practice-based experiences to empower students to promote community health
- Build a foundation for comprehensive health outreach by establishing an infrastructure for effective community partnerships

Acknowledgements

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